No. 141. Read the following letter from R. KNIGHT, Esq., Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Agricultural Department, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 26th July 1873, No. 2,003 :—

I AM directed to forward herewith a photograph of a jute-plant, together with a popular description of the two species of the plant which yields the jute of commerce, and to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, you will be good enough to ascertain whether the plant is cultivated to any extent for its fibre in the Presidency of Madras, and, if so, for what purposes the fibre is employed. To enable you to distinguish readily the two species of jute, the seed-pods of each kind are depicted on the side of the photograph. You will see how different they are.

2. The information is needed for a Commission lately appointed by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to inquire into and report on the jute-trade of this province.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

DESCRIPTION OF THE JUTE-PLANT.

THERE are two kinds of jute-plants which are extremely similar in their appearance, leaves, and habit of growth, also in the small yellow flowers ; but they differ entirely in the seed-pods by which they may readily be distinguished. The two kinds are *Corchorus capsularis* and *Corchorus olitorius*.

Corchorus capsularis is an annual plant, growing from 5 to 10 or 12 feet high, and having a straight cylindrical stem as thick as a man's finger, and seldom branching till near the top. Its leaves, which are of light green colour, are about 4 inches long by one and-a-half broad towards the base, but tapering upwards into a long sharp point, and having their edges cut into saw-like teeth, the two teeth next the stalk being prolonged into bristle-like points. The flowers are small and whitish yellow, and produced in clusters of two or three together opposite the leaves. The capsules are short and globular, rough, and wrinkled. It is called pat, koshta, nalita pat, and ghi-nalita pat.

The other kind of Corchorus is the *C. olitorius*, much resembling *C. capsularis* ; the principal difference existing in the seed-pods which, in this species, are elongated, being about two inches long, almost cylindrical, and about the thickness of a quill, totally unlike the other pod.

There is a white and a reddish variety of each species of the plant.

The fibre of both is soft and silky.

The seeds are sown in April, May, and June, after a sufficient quantity of rain to moisten the ground ; the jute-plant flowers about July, August, and September, when it is cut.

CALCUTTA,
25th July 1873.

(Signed) HEM CHUNDER KERR,
On Special Duty.

No. 142. ORDER THEREON, 19th August 1873, No. 869.

Forests No. 7.

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue for report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Inspector of Forests.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Encl 1

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Corchorus capsularis is an annual plant, growing from 5 to 10 or 12 feet high, and having a straight cylindrical stem as thick as a man's finger, and seldom branching till near the top. Its leaves, which are of light-green color, are about 4 inches long by one-and-half broad towards the base, but tapering upwards into a long sharp point, and having their edges cut into saw-like teeth, the two teeth next the stalk being prolonged into bristle-like points. The flowers are small and whitish-yellow, and produced in clusters of two or three together opposite the leaves. The capsules are short and globular, rough, and wrinkled. It is called pat, koshta, nalita pat, and ghi-nalita pat.

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25-7-73.

HEM CHUNDER KERR,
On Special Duty.

CALCUTTA,
The 25th July 1873.

W E. B.

Reve 1873 Dept

No. 2578

From

Govt of Bengal Agri Dept
2003

Dated 28 July
Recd. 10 August } 1873

Encls 2

Forwarding photographs of a jute plant together with a popular description of the two species of the plant and enquiring if the plant is cultivated for its fibre in the Madras Presidency and for what purpose the fibre is employed

with Cr 3745/73

Dr. 141-142

To B of Revenue with 1 Encl

Superintendent of Stationery

Sept 26/8

Sub

19 Aug 73

F. d. L.M. B. of Revenue Dept

No. 869